NOVEMBER 2019

The Megaphone
SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Crunch Time:
Fall 2019 nears its end

SU Alum runs for Congress pg 2

Tom Morin's *25* Review pg 8

Opinion: SU President Search pg 13

Band of Pirates pg 14

Eric Hanke '01 runs for Congress

written by Aiden Steinle

Southwestern Alumnus Eric Hanke is running for Congress! Hanke will host a meet and greet for Georgetown residents and Southwestern community members on November 8 from 5 - 7 PM at 309 Coffee.

Hanke is running for TX-31 in the United States House of Representatives. He seeks to unseat Republican incumbent John Carter, who is 78. His strategy is to align himself as an everyday person, citing a need for different backgrounds and perspectives in Congress.

If successful during the 2020 election, Hanke would be the first Democrat elected to TX-31. This district contains most of Williamson and Bell counties, including Southwestern University. The median household income is about $70,000 per year, 18.8% higher than the Texas average. In 2016, the district voted 53.5% for Donald Trump compared to 40.8% for Hillary Clinton.

Representative Carter, a firm Trump ally, has recently commented on the impeachment inquiry taking place in the House and the phone call between President Trump and Ukranian President Volodymyr Zelenski.

"The transcript shows that there was no quid pro quo during the President's call," Carter tweeted. "It's time to focus on the real problems Americans are facing."

Carter has represented TX-31 for 16 years, since the district's creation in 2003. Fiscally and socially conservative, Carter centers his political identity around his "Texas Values."

Hanke, a singer-songwriter and Texas native, has released two albums since graduating from Southwestern in 2001.

"I come from a working-class family that lived paycheck-to-paycheck," Hanke said, via his campaign website. "Times weren't always easy, but we never questioned whether or not opportunity was on the horizon… Instead of ensuring most Americans could follow the same path I have taken, Congress has left working folks like us behind."

Hanke has taken stances in favor of campaign finance reform, and promises to fight to pass HR1 if elected. His campaign has raised about $18,000 for the election in 2020, while his opponent has raised over $800,000. While over half of Representative Carter's income has been from PACs and other corporate or committee contributions, Hanke has only received donations from individuals.

Hanke also promises to pursue "sensible gun legislation" that would expand background checks while still allowing "law-abiding Americans [to] purchase guns."

"Our churches, schools, concerts, and other public settings are under constant threat of terror due to gun violence while Congress expresses little more than thoughts and prayers," Hanke wrote. "I am a person of faith and I pray, but that is not enough to prevent the next mass shooting."

Meanwhile, Representative Carter has received regular donations from the NRA and other gun-rights organizations.

photo courtesy of Hanke Campaign
Eric Hanke '02

Hanke has also positioned himself in favor of health care reform, investing in the middle class, service members, veterans, social security, and reproductive health care.

"Let's be clear. If men bore the brunt of reproductive health care, there would be universal and easy access across the country," Hanke wrote. "In too many cases, the conversations around these issues are conducted by men fixated on controlling the decisions and lives of women in America."

The meet and greet at 309 is open to everyone interested in learning more about the candidate and his platform. Hanke will be discussing his campaign as well as playing some of his music.

Campus Cat Killed

written by Claire Misfeldt

On September 26, one of the feral cats, Madeline, at Southwestern University was killed by an anonymous student's dog. Around 5:15 that evening, Madeline was on the porch at Korouva Milk Bar when the dog, who was off-leash, tried to play with her. It quickly turned aggressive, and the dog grabbed Madeline and took her to the lacrosse field. She was taken to a veterinary hospital, but died on the drive over.

Students were inside Korouva Milk Bar, getting ready for a club meeting, when the incident occurred. They heard yelling from outside, but assumed it was from the lacrosse team practicing across the street. The noise turned out to be coming from the dog's owner, who was trying to split up the animals.

The head barista at Korouva and president of Cat Partners, Sam Buehler, went to check on the scene, but came back inside screaming, "Madeline is dead."

Camila Ramirez, who was also at the scene, described what had happened.

"I ran out to see a student chasing their dog, and a police officer standing over a cat. I couldn't get a good look at the cat, so I was overtaken by denial. It wasn't until the cat brought her head up that I knew," said Ramirez.

Madeline lived underneath the porch at Korouva Milk Bar with fellow feral cat, Mr. Squinty. They are

part of Southwestern's Cat Partners, where students regularly feed other feral cats on campus. She was kind, loving, and beloved among students.

Her death has raised concerns about dogs on campus who are off-leash.

"The dog had no malicious intent, it was all an act of play. However, that does not excuse for what occurred in the end. Please, keep your dog on leash at all times on Southwestern campus," said Ramirez.

According to the student handbook, students must always keep their dogs on leash and will pay a ten dollar fee to the university if they are caught breaking this rule.

"No dogs shall be allowed to run loose on campus. All owners should keep their dog restrained by leash or kennel and all dogs must be directly supervised."

The dog from the incident was taken off-campus later that evening. Shortly after that, Madeline was buried under a tree right outside of Korouva Milk Bar by a couple members of Cat Partners.

An Armadillo - Campus Wildlife Update

written by Natalie Young

Many of those students living in the Lords and Dorthy-Lords Center apartments may have seen a new neighbor running around campus. A nine-banded armadillo has made its home in the woods around the Southwestern Campus.

The armadillo is the Texas state mammal and about the size of a small dog. According to the Statemen's report on armadillos, Texas lawmakers defended their choice of state mammal saying, "the armadillo is a hardy, pioneering creature that chose to begin migrating here at about the time that Texas became a state" and that "the armadillo possesses many remarkable and unique traits, some of which parallel the attributes that distinguish a true Texan, such as a deep respect and need for the land, the ability to change and adapt, and a fierce undying love for freedom."

However cute and cuddly they might be, its best not to try and pet them as one in six armadillos in Texas can carry leprosy. Most humans are immune to the disease, but it's better to be safe than sorry. Our new campus resident should be no harm though as armadillos tend to avoid humans. Students who have had close encounters with the little guy have reported that he has run past people's feet and made a strange purring noise akin to Perry the Platypus from Phineas and Ferb.

The campus armadillo seems to spend most of his time between the Dorothy-Lords Center and the ceramic and sculpture studio rooting around in the brush looking for grubs. Armadillos migrated from Mexico to Texas about a century ago and love the climate here. Don't worry about the weather getting colder in the winter, the armadillo will be just fine outside. So keep an eye out when you take walks around campus this fall but be sure to give our little guy lots of space. If you do spot him running around, take a photo and tag the Megaphone. This reporter certainly can't get enough of Southwestern's newest campus creature.

photo by Kari Darr

The armadillo!

Georgetown Tree Givaway

written by Natalie Young

This year I am renting a house in Georgetown. It is the first time that I've lived in this kind of housing situation and while there are many things I love about it, I can't help but be salty about how my yard is completely bereft of trees. My car sits parked in front of my lovely home and has absolutely no shade to keep it from heating up like a large, black, car shaped oven. So when I heard from one of my editors that Georgetown Parks and Recreation was going to be giving away free trees, I jumped at the opportunity and filled out the interest forms right there at the meeting. This was my first mistake.

Maybe I should have talked to my roommates before signing up to get a free tree. Maybe I should have considered what I would do with it since, as I said, I'm renting the house. I wouldn't have consulted with my parents about getting a tree, because honestly, I didn't want their opinion either way. When I told my friends, the reactions were not surprising, "Oh that's kinda weird, but cool I guess," and "Sure, go crazy, get a free tree!" were the responses of choice. I mean, who wouldn't want a free pecan tree for their shadeless yard? Do you know how expensive pecans are at H.E.B?

It didn't take long for me to start having doubts. I mean, really, what did I think I was going to do with a tree, especially knowing I might move to an apartment somewhere cool, like Austin, next year. A tree is a pretty long-term commitment. Okay, so the tree was probably going to be just a sapling, right? And I can keep it in increasingly large (but not too large) pots until I have somewhere semi-permanent to plant it. Surely I'll have a few years before it gets unmanageably huge. Wrong.

This year will be Georgetown's 3rd annual tree giveaway for Arbor Day and I couldn't be more supportive. Tree giveaways and planting events have become quite popular over the years. Organizations like the National Wildlife Federation encourages people to host events like these because trees are such a vital part of our ecosystem. Arbor Day was created to help raise awareness about the importance of trees and the day is typically celebrated by planting a tree. While Arbor Day was founded on April 10, 1872, Texas chooses to celebrate the day on the first Friday of November.

I received my confirmation email today. The Georgetown Parks and Recreation congratulated me on qualifying for a free tree and also gave me the information about how and where I need to go to take advantage of this incredible opportunity. 400 trees were made available for this event and they have all been reserved. I can pick up my pecan tree at 8:30 A.M. on November 2nd. I should bring a large car or pickup truck to transport my 5 foot tall tree. 5 feet tall. That tree is almost as tall as I am. I don't know where I'm going to keep a person sized tree. At least my car will have some shade this fall. If you feel so compelled to follow in my footsteps next year or have other nefarious plans involving free trees, check out Georgetown's parks and recreation website next September. There's no confirmation yet that they will be hosting the event again, but I hope you'll agree it's worth checking back in just in case.

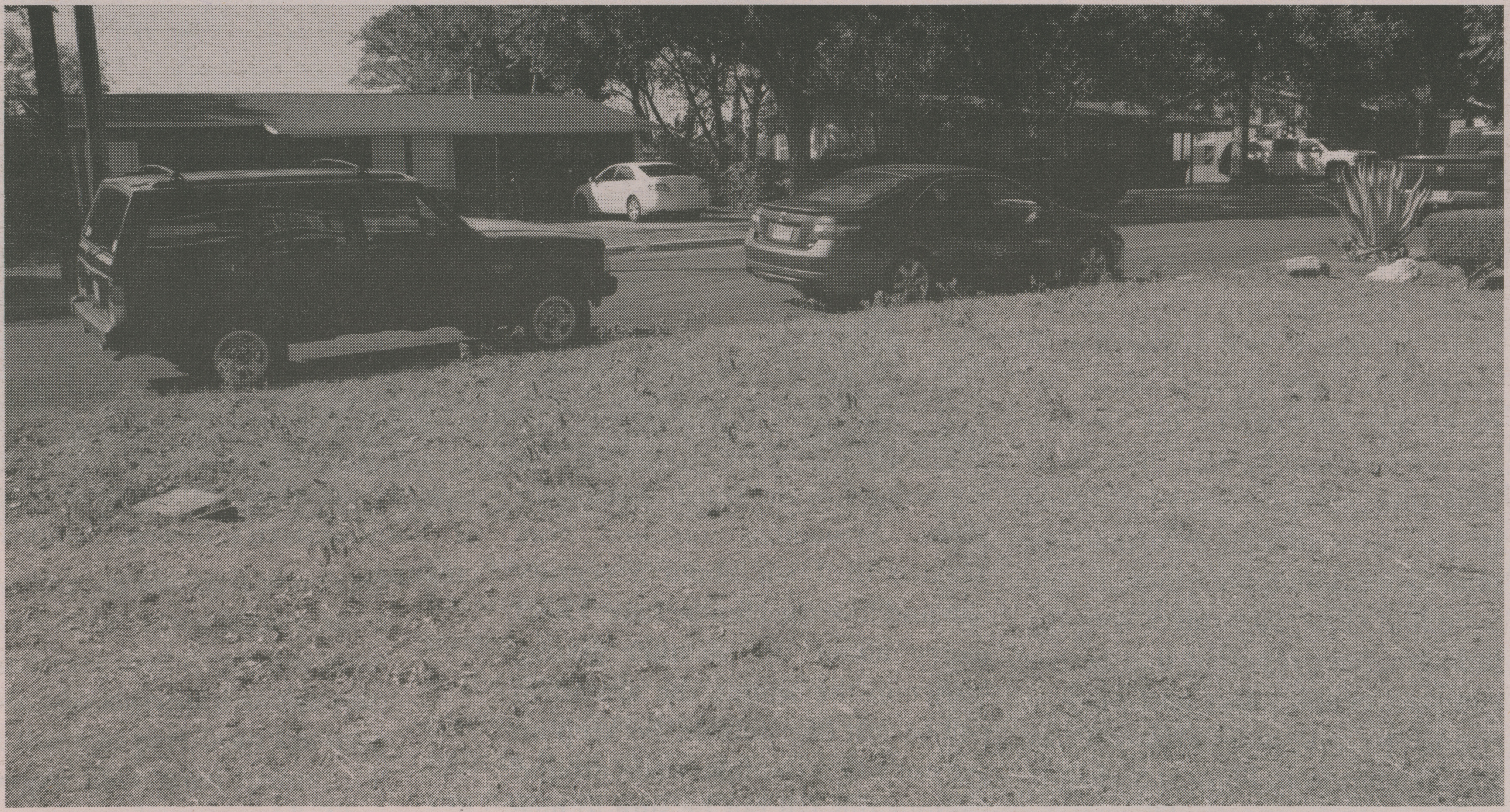


photo by Natalie Young

Sadly Treeless yard

Lamppost Coffee: Very Gray and Very Good

written by Mackenzie Spence

Located on South Main Street, just around the corner from the Williamson County Courthouse, Lamppost Coffee opened August 2019, and has been recommended to me ever since. On a rainy Thursday afternoon, I found myself with a fresh pocket of spare change itching to be spent and a longing for a good coffee shop atmosphere to lift my mood. What better place to go than this newfangled café?

On first impressions, Lamppost was a lot more stark and minimalist than I had expected. I had never heard of the coffee shop before their move to Georgetown, so had no idea what to expect of the interior. A little nook in the wall made up of grey walls, grey tables, and grey counters is not what I expected. With some hope that the drinks might make up for the subdued environment, I looked to the menu to peruse the limited offerings. The various lists of expensive coffees and short row of teas did not improve my reception of the new coffee shop. However, the staff were very welcoming and helpful, given that there were only two of them operating the very crowded bar. I ordered the signature Lamba Latte and a pumpkin muffin out of the display case to ease my midday munchies. My drink was ready for me not even five minutes after I completed the transaction, complete with pretty latte art.

After taking the requisite instagram pictures of my very attractive coffee and muffin, I took a tentative sip of the drink. I am not really a coffee drinker, so I was pleasantly surprised by how much I enjoyed my latte. It was sweet and milky, the only way I can take my coffee. It didn't have that strong bitterness that makes most coffee intolerable to me. Instead it was light and creamy, with a shot of flavor that reminded me of a cinnamon roll. The pumpkin muffin was also delicious, with a fresh homemade quality that is impossible to get from a chain coffee store. The total cost of my muffin and latte came out to $9.00 with tip, a little bit more than I'm used to spending but not unreasonably so.

Even if the atmosphere wasn't really to my tastes, the quality of the food more than made up for it. I'll have to return again to see if their chai latte can meet my unreasonably high standards for tea. Overall, I recommend Lamppost Coffee as a good place to stop for a latte to go while perusing the Square or commuting to class.

photo by Mackenzie Spence
Lamppost Mugs

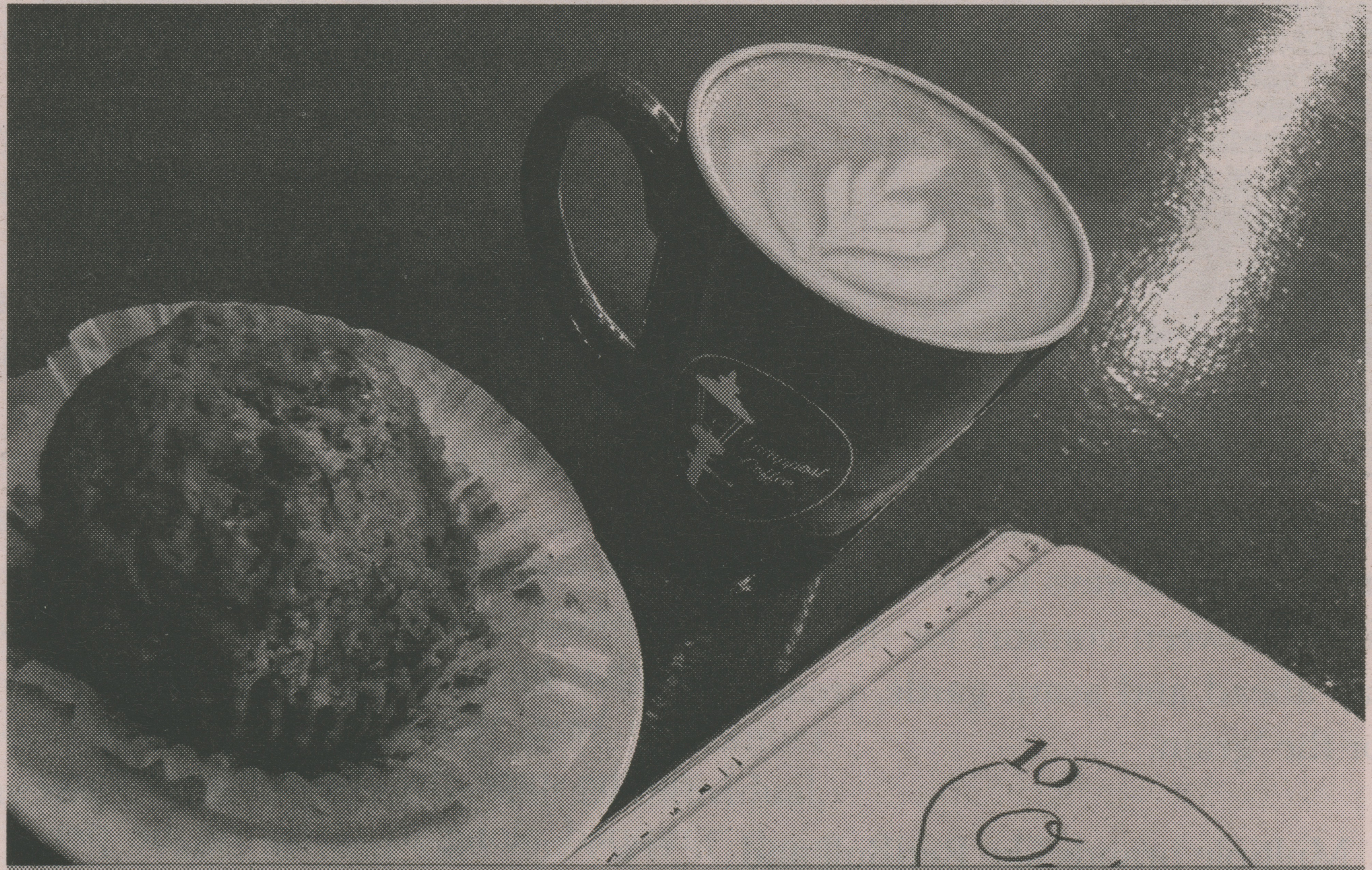


photo by Mackenzie Spence
For the aesthetic

ACL Weekend 2 Rundown: Highlights of the second weekend of the 2019 ACL

written by Aly Cerda

Weekend 2 of ACL kicked off October 11 once the gates opened at 11 am. Friday was filled with over 30 artists and performers with headliners like Tame Impala and Guns N' Roses performing last on the final two stages forcing audience members to choose. The streets leading up to Zilker Park were closed off for all vehicles and filled with eager people ready to join the festival fun. The crowd was dressed differently than ACL crowds in the past as the morning was a surprising 47 degrees yet as always people were divided between comfort for the long day ahead and avant garde, trendy for the 'gram.

photo by Aly Cerda

ACL Gate at Zilker Park

Multiple brands like RedBull and Kleenex were handing out free supplies to help those attending the festival. The supplies ranged from energy drinks to help keep up with the long hours of the festival and wet wipes to help keep sanitary in the festival's disgusting port-a-potties.

All of the acts of Friday were able to show. King Princess, a pop lesbian artist, gave an emotional yet hype performance of many songs like Cheap Queen, Pussy Is God, Talia, Upper West Side, and more. Lil Uzi Vert gave the crowd a scare after not showing at his set the previous weekend and being late to his set this weekend however he did not disappoint. First, a hype man joined the stage rapping and hyping the crowd up which caused some to some worry that he was there in place of Lil Uzi Vert. When Lil Uzi Vert came on the stage, the crowd cheered and rapped along to al his hit he performed. Thom Yorke, the lead singer of Radiohead, joined ACL yet again after having performed there with his band and as a solo artist in the past. His performance consisted of songs from his solo album Tomorrow's Modern Boxes, accompanied by small speeches thanking the crowd, incredible vocals, and mesmerizing visuals in the background that made all his viewers feel immersed in the music. Headliner Tame Impala focused on visual as well as making their performance a light show. They performed many hits from their discography and made the crowd sway and dance and feel the music all while showing an amazing light show along with their music.

The Saturday of weekend 2 was brisk yet exciting all the same. Acts like Flora Cash and The Aquadolls opened up the day exciting crowds and creating hype. The crowd at Miller Lite became antsy after 1:15 pm when rapper Megan Thee Stallion seemed to be late. The crowd continued to wait and chant for around 25 minutes until a crew member came onstage saying she was on her way but going to be late. Some of the crowd decided to leave while others stayed hoping to catch the last minutes of her set but again a crew member came out to say she would not be making her performance. Despite the disappointment, the day continued on with acts like Denzel Curry and HIPPIE SABOTAGE hyping up crowds and thanking their audiences. More popular acts like Kali Uchis, Billie Eilish, and 21 Savage showed to dedicated fans and sang their hearts out to large, adoring crowds. The night ended with Childish Gambino and The Cure headlining for the night signing many of their popular hits. Childish Gambino was a special artist to have headlining as he was scheduled to perform last year but couldn't due to an injury, his fans were excited he was able to make it instead this year.

The final day of weekend 2, Sunday, was warmer and the festivities going off with a bang. The highlight of this day was Lizzo who was not scheduled as a headliner but had a crowd of over 75,000 people. She had an audience so big people were complaining about the sound not reaching the back of the crowd. She filled up the entire Miller Lite stage and the entire Honda stage, which is usually meant for headliners and larger artists. ACL decided to show footage of the performance at both stages to help everyone view. Her performance lasted into the sunset and ended before headliners Robyn and Mumford & Sons performed.

After the festival ended and people were headed home ACL sent out a notification to those with their app saying thank you for the weekend and announcing that they will see us next year at ACL 2020 on October 2-4 and 9-11. This years festival was filled with lots of fun, empowerment, and memories that anyone would be grateful to have. Everyone should stay on the lookout for next year's festivals details to see what's in store and what to plan!

Review: Jesus Christ Superstar 50th Anniversary

written by Vivienne Miller

When you hear the name "Jesus Christ" and you immediately think of groovy 70s aesthetics in a desert, then you probably know of the timeless musical "Jesus Christ Superstar."

In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the modern revival of "Jesus Christ Superstar" is playing at the Bass Concert Hall as a part of their Broadway at the Bass series, and I had the pleasure of seeing the show with two of my childhood friends who are also die-hard JCS fans.

photo by Vivienne Miller

Spoiler alert: This article contains spoilers from the hit musical "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Let me just start off this review with my biggest take away from the show: the combination of the lighting design plus the dynamic choreography creates such momentous energy that the musical becomes a spiritual experience. The dances of the ensemble give movement to the emotional and spiritual conflict between the main characters, while the lighting design encompasses the wide spectrum of soft, warm glows and violent, neon crosses.

The relationship between the dancers and the technical crew sets the powerful background for the spectacular performances by the actors and musicians. These production elements, plus the giant cross laid out over half the stage acting as a dynamic platform, delivers the weight and force necessary for the retelling of the crucifixion of Christ.

My friends and I were sitting on the top balcony and our bird's eye view had me feeling like I was God anytime Jesus started singing to Him. Overall I was grateful for our far-out seats because of this all-seeing phenomenon we experienced and I could focus on the unity of the visual and musical aesthetics.

Even though I had no idea what anyone's face looked like, I was still able to appreciate the modern fashion and attractive looks served up by Jesus and his followers. Jesus would fit in perfectly in the streets of downtown Austin, and the acoustic guitar he carries around completes his youth-pastor aesthetic to perfection. The grey-colored outfits worn by Jesus, his disciples and the ensemble create a material medium that allows the bodies on stage to seamlessly transition from individual to unified in dramatic or subtle ways.

I've always adored the relationship dynamic between Jesus and Judas, especially when there are close-ups in the film where they hold intense eye contact during the climax of a song. I was worried that I would miss the heated tension between the two men, but Aaron LaVigne (Jesus) and James Delisco Beeks (Judas) do not fail in capturing the ever-shifting emotional dispositions, that I believe are crucial to express, leading up to the infamous betrayal. From his first song "Heaven On Their Minds" to his last song "Judas' Death," Beeks embodies the hurt and tenderness that makes Judas' perspective so undeniably honest and human.

Alvin Crawford (Caiaphas) and Tyce Green (Annas) complement each other in both stage presence and aesthetic, creating a constant back-and-forth dialogue that authenticates the political spiral from oppressive control into corrupt monopolizing. Tommy Sherlock (Pilate) and Paul Louis Lessard (Herod) are, quite literally, badass rock-opera stars. Pilate's punk get-up plus his electrifying riffing on his electric guitar in direct contrast with Jesus' acoustic, hipster musicality, which is a constant representation of the underlying moral battle between Jesus' teachings and Rome. King Herod, who had the most scandalous representation in the 70s film, did nothing but exceed my expectations with his song in which he essentially humiliates the stoic Jesus with his excessive glamour and untouchable agency.

Glitter, and silver in general, play a big part of the visual aesthetics of this rendition of JCS. When Judas sells out Jesus, his hands are forced into an ominous chest and they emerge covered in a coat of silver that stains Judas' hands for the rest of the show. When the masses start to turn on Jesus, a woman covered in glitter appears at times of tension, chaotically dancing by her lonesome in a rhythm unique to her. The glitter and silver start to overshadow the subtle greys creating a visual snowball that leads up to the lashing of Jesus. Pilate counts the 39 whips and the actors go one-by-one taking turns throwing handfuls of glitter hatefully across Jesus' back. Each slash of glitter is violent and Jesus crumbles with each hit, and though it is painful to watch, you don't want to look away.

Jesus, tattered, torn and covered in glitter is finally crucified. The giant cross that has been acting as a dynamic stage piece dramatically centers itself and rises up with Jesus pinned to the top. Light floods into the audience and I have to squint to see anything at all. The air is heavy as the band creates eerie sounds and the cries of Jesus are as inescapable as the shining light.

I left the show giddy and extremely satisfied and I bought a shirt that says "Damned For All Time" from the merch booth. It's exciting being able to watch a live, modernized version of one of my favorite rock operas and I'm grateful to have been with my two friends. Of course, we immediately watched the 70s JCS as soon as we left the venue so we had an excuse to continue gushing about our passion for the show.

"Jesus Christ Superstar" has a powerful legacy as a rock opera and the performances done by the actors, musicians and technicians, plus the underlying support from the show's logistical designers, all contribute to the revival of this timeless story with creative insight and bold declarations.

Tom Morin's '25' Review

written by Leah Mock

Tom Morin's photography exhibit, titled 25 for the twenty-five years it spans, is visiting the Sarofim Fine Arts Gallery until Nov. 12. On Fri., Oct. 18, Morin visited campus to present the exhibit to a group of art students at Southwestern. (Disclaimer: I am not a Studio Arts major, but I have experience in the art world and, not to mention, a fabulous editor who has guided me through the process of writing an art review.)

Having never attended an artist's talk before, I came in with very few expectations. Because I also wrote an article introducing Tom Morin to the Southwestern community, I was already familiar with Tom Morin and his work. However, I waited to walk through the gallery until the day of the artist's talk so I could have a fresh perspective of the exhibit. I shook hands with Morin as I arrived and proceeded to make my way around the gallery. On my first walk around, I stopped in front of each photograph and absorbed it without knowing its context. I had just enough time to peruse the gallery once more and take notes before Morin's lecture began.

Morin shared the beginnings of his career as a photographer emphasizing that "what [students] do in college is relevant 20 years in the future." Morin also analyzed the series which made up the exhibit: Metaphor, Remnants, and Service. For each series, Morin selected a few of his best and favorite photographs from 1992-2017. He discussed how each photo was made and his vision for each series. He also explained his process of selecting, arranging, and mounting the photos for the exhibition.

photo by Leah Mock

Setup for the exhibition

On Sat., Oct. 19, Morin returned to campus for a reception advertised to the public. A wide range of people showed for the reception, from Morin's friends and family to Southwestern students and members of the Georgetown community. Tom Morin acknowledged some of his most dignified guests with gratitude. After a brief Q&A, hors d'oeuvres were served. I took the opportunity to revisit Morin's photography and take some additional notes.

Morin's Metaphor series (1992-2000) was my favorite of the three. As an English major, I'm a sucker for metaphors. I felt slightly discomforted by the images, but that was the beauty of them. The series was characterized by surrealism and deep contrast. In each photo, the light was cast on the subject, and the dark background was ready to swallow the subject whole. Morin's photographs in Metaphor were crafted intentionally using the least amount of objects possible. Because of their vivid simplicity, the photos have a commercial quality. Additionally, the photos stand the test of time. Though they were shot in the 90's, there are no clues to show which era they might belong to. The photos appear contemporary and could have easily been taken yesterday.

The Remnants series (2000-2008) was tangent to the Metaphor series in the gallery. Included were photographs of airplane light trails, chalkboards, and expended bullet shells. Before Morin went in depth about his works in the Remnants series, I had a hard time discerning what I was looking at. In a way, the images are more abstract than the Metaphor series since the subjects are taken out of context. Morin explained that in the Remnants series he was inspired to go out and find things to photograph instead of creating scenes as he did at the beginning of his career.

According to Morin, the photographs of the light trails were taken with no tripod and a "simple beat up camera". When Morin produced these images in the dark room, he purposely allowed his thumbprints to resonate in the prints as if a form of signature. He explained the existence of his thumbprints at the corners of the photos is a "rebellion against the perfection" that professional photography is notorious for. The chalkboard photographs were also pleas against perfection. As a matter of fact, these photographs seem to be mounted on torn paper as if the photos themselves are rough around the edges. Morin claims the chalkboards can represent both the "transfer and erasure of knowledge." Seeking closure, I searched for a hidden message in the partial equations that remained on the chalkboards. I managed not to find any. It appears Morin left the chalkboards untouched, contributing to the spontaneity of the photographs.

The Rounds grouping is also characterized by a chaotic, uncanny beauty. Unlike Airplanes and Chalkboards, the photos of bullet primer impressions were manufactured by the photographer. Morin painted a Nu Skin coating on the bullet shells and photographed the patterns under a microscope. While Morin's process to photograph Rounds was

more deliberate, the impressions left by the bullets were not a factor to be controlled, therefore making each image unique.

The transition into the Service series (2012-2017) from the Remnants series was well-conducted. Morin positioned the more abstract photos from this series closest to the Remnants series. The final photo of the series showed a familiar scene from Hurricane Harvey. In this photo series, Morin's talent shines through in the Service series; many of the photos were taken in the spur of the moment. This series, unlike the others, documented events in raw, honest truth with the photographer as a bystander, not a facilitator. The documentation was especially impactful because it included facial expressions. Though these photos are all modern, Morin left them in black and white, likely to remove color as a distraction from the subject.

Morin's 25 resonates with me. He leaves his work open to interpretation and encourages the viewer to read between the lines of his work. My interpretations of his work are certainly not the only valid interpretations. I would encourage anyone who hasn't yet visited the gallery to do so and form their own opinions of Metaphor, Remnants, and Service. The gallery will remain open Tues.-Sun. 12-5 p.m. until Tues., Nov. 12.

Texas Clay Festival

written by
Emily Schmalstieg

Beautiful weather welcomed artists and tourists alike this weekend to the Annual Texas Clay Festival located in the popular Gruene Historical District of New Braunfuels. Strolling past the local antique store and hundred-year-old historic dance hall, I followed the rustic sign into a maize of white flowing tents, captivating ceramics, and eager crowds of art enthusiasts. As the day progressed the crowds got thicker, and the bundles of wrapped treasures under their arms got heavier.

The festival featured eighty ceramic artists from all over Texas. Clusters of art lovers filled each booth, buying and admiring each unique clay piece. Demonstrations of hand forming, glazing techniques, and forming on the wheel were conducted throughout the day under four different tents. Some of the highlighted artists included, Lisa Orr, from Austin, with her expressive one of a kind pieces displaying her world acclaimed, exotic glazing technique. Another outstanding artist, Karen Walker, displayed her imaginative sculpture pieces, that were hand built using coil and slab techniques, featuring sculptures that incorporated porcelain doll faces into creative forms of work, attracting curious onlookers, as well as experienced clay professionals. Farther down my walk I encountered the colorful wood fired pottery mugs and bowls of David Henley. Henley is known mostly for his colorful glazes and slips that contrast to the natural color of the clay surfaces. Not far from his display was the tent for the Eye of the Dog center, a popular art space located between San Marcos and Austin, where many local clay artists have studios. Featured within the display were dog inspired sculptures, hand crafted pet bowls, and freshly baked dog biscuits for the spectator's pets. Yes, the festival is pet friendly.

Other items for purchase at the festival included porcelain earrings, bird feeders, Christmas ornaments, plant holders, lamps, and whimsical creatures of fun created by various artists. I myself purchased various Christmas gifts and a one of a kind tumbler from Lisa Orr. As an enthusiastic ceramics student I learned a lot about new ceramics techniques and will be sure to attend the festival in the coming years. If ever you get a chance to go to the Texas Clay Festival in Gruene Texas be sure to make an appearance, it is well worth the drive.

photo by Emily Schmalstieg
Collection of work from the Texas Clay Festival

photo by Emily Schmalstieg
Artist Jess Wade

photo by Emily Schmalstieg
Close-up of work

NOVEMBER HOROSCOPES

by Alice Quintanilla

The first weeks of this month fall In Scorpio season, when we are encouraged to let go of that which does not serve us, much like the trees who let go of their leaves this time of year. (Except, evidently for trees in central Texas.) Scorpio also governs the depths of our souls and desires, so I hope every Scorpio reading this gets exactly what they desire for their birthday!

Lets talk about Mercury Retrograde! Before the actual retrograde, when the planet is moving backwards in the sky, there is a period where the planet traverses the path it will later go back over. This period is known as the pre-shadow. Last month I mentioned that the retrograde itself (which has the most negative effects) was to begin on Halloween, but I failed to mention that the pre-shadow, which may also have some negative effects—though not as strong—started on October 11th. I Hope that didn't cause anyone any trouble! Anyway, by the time this comes out we should be over the worst of it. The post-shadow, when the miscommunications will slow down, begins on November 20th , and everything returns to normal on December 7th . Since this mercury retrograde is in Scorpio, miscommunication can be avoided by communicating deeply and intimately.

Since this will come out within Mercury retrograde, I would like to dedicate a small acrostic poem to Mercury, in the hopes that they will accept it, and prevent these horoscopes from being especially confusing or bad.

Mixin' it up,
Everybody's on their toes,
Reconsidering what they say 4 u.
Caffeinated friend (so fast!)
U are smart and good
Remembering
You are so cool to me.

*Note: dates may vary from year to year.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)*
Huh. You don't get what all the fuss is about.

Taurus (Apr 20-May 20)*
Have you been here before? Your eyes widen and your breath catches. Your unconscious bubbles up through the floor. Was it really just a dream?

Gemini (May 21-June 20)*
Relationships are roller coasters. Luck is also roller coasters. Wheeee!

Cancer (Jun 21-Jul 22)*
Small obstacles continue to be easy to overcome. When nostalgia or wistfulness take over, find the motivation to push through.

Leo (Jul 23-Aug 22)*
You may have the energy required to change things for the better, despite a shifting sense of self.

Virgo (Aug 23-Sep 22)*
Something needs to be resolved before you can move on. The next phase has the potential to be fulfilling in many ways.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct 22)*
Breathe out. You get what all the fuss is about, but it doesn't seem so bad for you anymore.

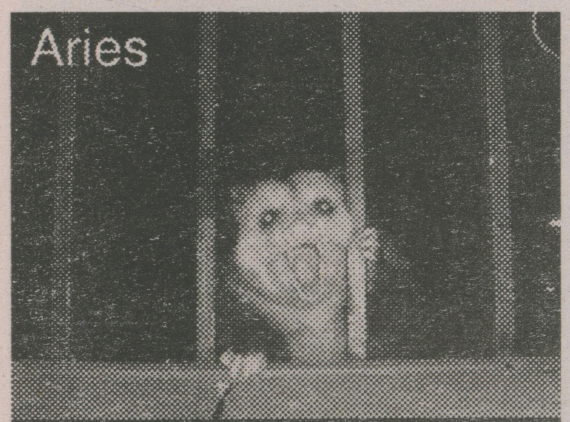
Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21)*
Do you know who you are? Why do you suddenly care so deeply about the things you care about?

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21)*
This is an excellent month to fall in love, and to plant seeds. Your unique outlook will bring joy.

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 19)*
Outlook good at first, but gradually slows to "meh." Stress and bad moods will be temporary.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18)*
You may feel motivated to renegotiate your identity. When dealing with a lot of confusion or stress, try to look at the big picture. Remember why you do what you do.

Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)*
Be sure to direct your newfound motivation and pep towards where you really want it to go. Listen to yourself and to those close to you.



Opinion: RE: "Party Like A ~~Patriot~~ Nationalist"

written by Andrew Kovach

A few weeks ago, around 5 p.m on a Tuesday evening, I was with my friends returning from Sonic as we wanted to decompress prior to doing homework later in the day. Upon our arrival, it was brought to our attention that an article in the Megaphone, "Party Like A Patriot Nationalist" was making its way through 'Mouthwestern.'

The article was written by an anonymous Southwestern student who addressed her concern with Phi Delta Theta's party, "Let Freedom Ring", and the message it could have potentially been broadcasting. The author discusses her qualms with Phi Delta Theta's theme given the current state of our country's "socio-political climate."

Now that you've been briefed, I ask the reader to hear my rebuttal to the anonymous author and address some of the larger issues that are present on this campus.

The author makes many points, one of which is the political climate on campus which reflects today's current divide amongst parties. We all study at a liberal arts university, one that teaches us to expand our knowledge on issues, step out of our comfort zone and to continually question. All of which are skills I believe are imperative in guiding one to becoming the best version of oneself.

I think the hypocrisy that some feel on the opposing side of the political spectrum is that people label themselves as accepting yet reject anyone who may disagree politically.

Phi Delta Theta was labeled by the author as a conservative and anti-LGBTQ+ environment due to the "bias-related incident" that occurred last year. Personally, I find it problematic that, not only this author, but the culture on campus allows a group of people to be labeled as anti-LGBTQ+ based on a single incident.

I am not minimizing the magnitude of that event but only simply stating: it is unfair to label these men similar to the perpetrator.

The additional assumption made is that these men are intolerant to the LGBTQ+ community due to their political views. As a gay, moderate man this concerns me. The usage of identity politics is an incredible issue, especially when society cannot separate an individual from former political ideology or stereotypes. The damage has been done but this gets into a larger issue that all fraternities seem to deal with called 'cancel culture.'

As time has passed, all fraternities have yet to break their stigma. What's the first thing that comes to mind when a fraternity is referenced? Most would say that Kappa Sigma is "the gay frat," Phi full of trump supporters, Pike has "creeps" and KA is "proud of their history."

The problem I have with this is that most of the issues or labels are based on isolated incidents or specific individuals. These narratives that are spread cause nothing more than greater division amongst us.

Criticism of fraternities is definitely welcomed and suggested to better ensure that they follow boundaries, however, to simply accept a narrative as fact about a fraternity is unfair to its members and reputation.

As I close, I'd like to mention that I am not a Phi Delta Theta member, or an individual that knows a brother on a personal level. I simply believe that the opposing side of this story should be broadcasted, and that individuals who may not be within the political majority should be heard.

Finally, I'd like to address the author directly, as I respect your opinion, but I strongly disapprove of the distasteful approach you used to take issue with Phi Delta Theta. From your article, I know that you struggled growing up as a queer woman in a conservative, small town. With this in mind, I understand it may be difficult to develop a new outlook on conservatives, but I challenge you to think about how not all conservatives are the same.

I am aware that this article may not change people's views, and anger others, but if you take issue with a fraternity, a member, or in this case a party theme; remember you're under no obligation to go or support that organization and events. Once again you're entitled to your opinion, I just believe one should think through the damage one could do by just accepting common knowledge or shared opinions as fact.

Mouthwestern, please remember that a person is still an individual, and to hear one out even if their opinions differ. I am almost certain that most Americans, regardless of their political party, want what is best for this country.

My hope is, as a result of both these articles being published, that all sides of the political spectrum are being heard and accepted.

The Megaphone was established in 1907 to provide a platform for the students of Southwestern University. Since then, the writers and editors of the paper have worked to develop student writing and foster community-wide dialogue on the important issues of the day. The views expressed herein do not necessarily express the views of Southwestern University, its faculty, its staff, its students, its trustees or its administration.

THE MEGAPHONE
NOVEMBER 2019

Opinion: The very real fear of authorities when it comes to sexual harassment

written by Aly Cerda

CONTENT WARNING: The following content contains mentions of sexual assault.

When I was younger, I had a relationship with a man well into his twenties. Our relationship was extremely secretive and at the time I thought I was lucky and mature. It was not until years later that I realized I was actually manipulated and abused, and wanted to do something about it. I did not know exactly who to go to. I contemplated if I should talk to someone and who that could be. I decided to speak to a local officer in my town, and met up one day. I explained everything, how we met, what we did, how he treated me, and how he was at least 10 years older than me.

Despite this officer caring about me and the issue I presented, she told me the truth: no one would do anything. It does not matter that I was 12 when he asked me for nude pictures, it does not matter that he had described multiple sexual fantasies he had about me at 12 years old, it does not matter that he works at an elementary school with other vulnerable kids. My words had such little effect and I would probably be better off saying nothing.

This is something I have always carried with me. That on top of countless stories of abusers and rapists facing no legal penalty helped me realize that the law, and cops, do not care about me or people that have gone through what I have gone through.

Years passed and I faced a different experience. I was raped. I did not exactly know what to do at that moment. I did not want to believe that something like that could happen to me, especially not by someone I had trusted so much. After I came to terms with the fact, and began to heal from the experience, I knew that taking legal action would not be a part of my healing. I knew that what I had learned all those years ago was still true; No one would do anything.

I did not want to go to the cops, strip myself bare in front of them while telling them everything that happened to me, just for them to do nothing—or worse: ridicule me. I could not go to the people I hear stories about, like the police who cover up rape and charge the victims with crimes. I could not go to the people who would not do anything. So I did not.

Story after story comes out detailing the ways cops have pressure victims, coerced victims, destroyed rape kits, fail to interview suspects, and so much more. These stories contributing to my fear that seems anything but irrational are also stories that sometimes seem so far away.

Now I am a college Sophomore living in a small town, at an even smaller campus, where I feel like I know everyone I pass. I live in the same small town where a (now ex) sheriff's commander lives. That same ex-commander, while still serving on the force, found it appropriate to post multiple photos on his public Facebook account of dolls in multiple positions, some of which depict violence of women.

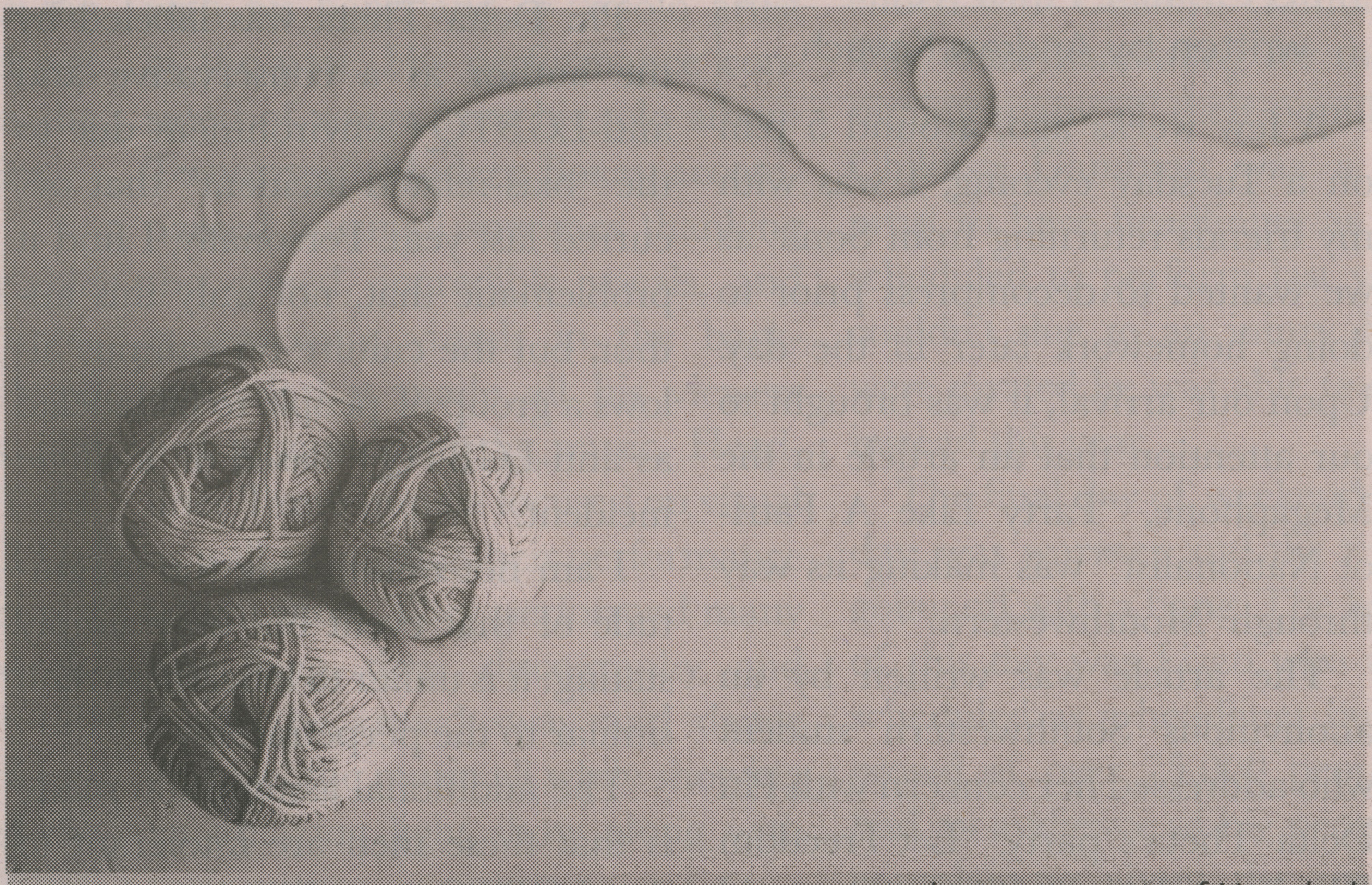


photo courtesy of Unsplash

I live in a town where the same person I should trust with my safety mock the experiences of me and so many others. Although I have already known this for what feels like my whole life, I am scared.

I am scared because he was not fired. I am scared because he chose to resign due to the backlash he faced. I am scared that the other people in power found it appropriate to keep him on the force. I am scared because time and time again we, as victims and survivors of rape, are failed not only by our society but by our legal system and those who work in it.

It is scary living in a world where you believe early on that you do not have support when you are violated. It is scary having fears that the adults around you, the ones you should trust, are the ones that are going to hurt you. It is scary thinking that the authorities will fail to protect you from your abusers and see your problems as a joke.

But the scariest part is being right about it.

Opinion: Who Should Be Our Next President?

written by Kari Darr

Students weighed in on the matter at the Presidential Search Listening Session on October 16 in the Olin lecture hall. Susan Pierce, Southwestern's third-party presidential search consultant, was available to take questions, comments and concerns from students on what qualities the Committee should look for in a new president. At first only a few students trickled in; the only two listening sessions were scheduled at very inconvenient times that conflicted with classes. We feared that if not enough people could attend, it would look like only a few students cared about getting involved when we know that most students have opinions on who should lead Southwestern. Luckily, about 15-20 students attended the listening session, voicing a variety of opinions and supporting each other's thoughts.

photo by Kari Darr

???

As a member of the Student Labor Action Coalition, the first thing I brought up was campus workers' issues and President Burger's complete silence on the matter. The other students in attendance were quick to back me up and began telling personal stories about why custodians matter to them as a part of our community, and how we believe the school's administration has been treating the custodial staff unfairly. Students mentioned that some of our custodians provide emotional support for some students away from their families for the first time, especially students struggling to find other Spanish-speakers at SU, as Southwestern is a predominantly white school.

Last year, SLAC did a letter-drop requesting to meet with President Burger, yet he has remained inaccessible to conversation. He has not made any kind of statement or comment on the subject. We believe that it is a university president's job to engage with the community when large issues are being raised to the forefront.

Ms. Pierce, who has consulted over 90 schools in their presidential searches, said she was impressed that we were the first school she's visited to explicitly mention custodians and staff as a key part of our community. She took note of our concern to hire a new president who will be sympathetic to all campus workers, not just students and faculty. She also noted the call for diversity and representation to cultivate a more inclusive campus culture. We agreed that the candidate should actively engage in the community beyond the surface-level.

Time was limited and there were other points to bring up, so we didn't discuss this matter in detail, aside from mentioning scheduling changes and minimal raises for campus workers who have dedicated decades of work to Southwestern. Our main point was that President Burger has been entirely unresponsive to this campus-wide movement to call for change.

Students then began to name other qualities they would like to see in our new president. One person said she would like to see a president who has personally experienced the same struggles that many of our students have faced, someone who understands that issues like racism, sexism, and inequality are still alive and are not just stories on the news.

Another person adamantly stated that she would not feel represented at this school until we had a female president of color. She said that this would help Southwestern attract more diversity, and it would help with retention of current students of color. Others began to agree that it's time for this school to be represented by someone other than a white man.

We want a president who will publicly acknowledge campus issues and then go beyond by taking action to help resolve them. We want someone who is even more open to communication when issues arise, and someone who is available to students so we can voice our concerns. They should actively respond to movements on campus instead of only sending out a rare email once or twice a year. They should ensure that students feel represented. And a president should acknowledge the diverse needs of the student body, faculty, and staff as a whole.

The presidential search profile, essentially a job description and list of requirements for applicants, should be finalized by Thanksgiving, and if all goes well, the new president will be chosen around March. Will Southwestern choose the perfect candidate for the job? Probably not.

Band of Pirates

written by Claire Harding
Staff Writer

If what you missed at football games was the marching band, you're in luck! Over the summer Southwestern University students put together a drum line for our Southwestern football games that developed into a full band! Students have been trying off and on since the football program started back up to form a pep band for games, but this is the first time it has gotten off the ground and onto the bleachers. The leader of all of this and the band conductor, Shelby Toliver says "We had some resemblance of a pep band here and there, but none as sturdy and successful as this one. I think that's in part from knowing that people have tried before… it made us more determined." They hope that they will continue to be supported by students not only in the bleachers but also by them joining the band. Interested in participating? They currently practice on Monday and Friday from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. They want the student body to know that it does not matter if you have any musical talent, or have never played an instrument before, they want you in their band! They are willing to teach anybody how to play drums or really anything as long as they want to join. Shelby says "I promise it's not scary!" Current members are happy to help guide and teach people who want to join. The sponsor of this wonderful pep band is Glenn Schwab, the associate athletic director, who has worked hard to get this program started. If you are looking for them in the stands at a football game you can find them in the student section, right in front of the pom squad. If you have any questions or are looking for a new club to join, email Shelby Toliver at tolivers@southwestern.edu.

photo by Claire Harding

Pep band at SU Football game

Pirates Stay Strong Through Defeat Against Mary Hardin Baylor

written by Claire Harding
Staff Writer

The Southwestern Pirates played against the Mary Hardin Baylor Crusaders this past weekend. Although the game was a loss, our pirates did better against the Crusaders than most of the other opponents that Mary Hardin Baylor has competed against. Going into this game, Mary Hardin Baylor Crusaders were undefeated 5-0. The Pirate defense started off strong in the first quarter, only letting 10 points to the Crusaders. Leading the Pirates defense was Josiah Minnifield with back to back to back tackles on the ball carrier.

By the end of the first quarter, the game was starting to look like a shutout, similar to all the other games that have been played against the Crusaders. In the second quarter, the defense was still doing better than most other of the Crusaders opponents, keeping the score down to 19-0 in total. There was a forced fumble on the play which put the ball back on the Pirates side. By the half, the defense and offense were exhausted in the 90 °F heat.

At the half, the pom squad put on a wonderful performance. The audience also got a treat with the Sun City Georgettes putting on a show that they have done all over the state including our neighbors at the University of Texas Austin. The Southwestern Band of Pirates also played during the half.

The beginning of the third quarter started off with a bang with our Southwestern Pirates scoring three points with a field goal. The last score that the Crusaders made was in the third quarter with a fifty yard pass to a touchdown. The Pirate defense was able to hold the Crusaders off for the rest of the fourth quarter, making the end score 33-3. While this is not a great final score, it is one of the best scores against the Crusaders all season, with the worst being 79-0 against the McMurry University, who the pirates play next week. The Pirates are now 3-3 in the season and 2-3 in the conference. The game next weekend will be on the road at McMurry University. There are two more home games in the season, back to back November 2 and 9, and four more games in total.

New Assistant Women's Lacrosse Coach

written by Claire Harding
Staff Writer

In the last week of off season fall practice, the women's lacrosse team got a new assistant lacrosse coach. Kendall Vecchio is the fourth assistant coach that the team has had in four years. Johnee Wolter, a midfielder on the team says "He has a great attitude and pushes us to want to do our best… he has already taught us useful lessons to take into the season."

With fall ball over, and the team and coaches looking forward to the season, I asked Coach Vecchio some questions about how he fits into the team and where he sees this season going.

Q: Where did you go to school?

A: "I spent my first year and a half at Johns Hopkins University and then transferred to Le Moyne College where I won the 2016 National Championship and finished out my playing career as a Dolphin."

Q: How long have you played lacrosse?

A: "I have been playing lacrosse since I was in 5th grade, but I didn't start to get good at the sport until 7th grade because I grew from 5'5" to 6'1" over the summer going into 7th grade."

Q: Is this your first coaching position?

A: "This is my first full-time coaching position! I was a volunteer assistant at Detroit Mercy last spring for the 2019 season."

Q: Where are you originally from?

A: "I am originally from a small town in New York called Watertown. It's nothing like New York City and everything like Antarctica for 5-6 months out of the year. One of the most known things about our town would be the amount of snow we get. 3-4 feet is a normal amount of snow for my hometown so coming to Texas is a nice change to what I'm used to seeing!"

Q: Why did you decide to come to Southwestern?

A: "I chose to come to Southwestern because I think that I have a lot to offer to the girls who play here and just to the overall culture of women's lacrosse throughout this campus. I was also excited to get out of New York because I have been there most of my life!"

Q: How was your first week, and how do you see the season going?

A: "My first was BUSY! It took a lot of adjusting and we had a 98+ degree day which caught me way off guard, but overall I'm starting to love Texas more and more! I see our season being very shocking to most because although Coach Hafdell and I are on our first year of working together, I see so much potential in the girls that we have this season. I am setting my sights on having a breakout season for the women's lacrosse program and and surprising past fans and/or players of Soutwestern University women's lacrosse."

Q: What type of things will you be incorporating into practices from your experience in men's lacrosse?

A: "I specialize in the coordination of the offense and helping players achieve better stick skills and shooting techniques. I also bring high energy to the sideline and I know how to get the most out of the players that I am coaching so I am very excited to see what this season has in store for us!"

The lacrosse season officially starts in February with lots of home games to attend, here we go Buc's!

photo courtesy of Unsplash

SCAN ME

Are you interested in writing or taking photos for the Megaphone?

Meetings are every Thursday at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Floor of the McCombs Campus Center

comic by Zoë Kincaid

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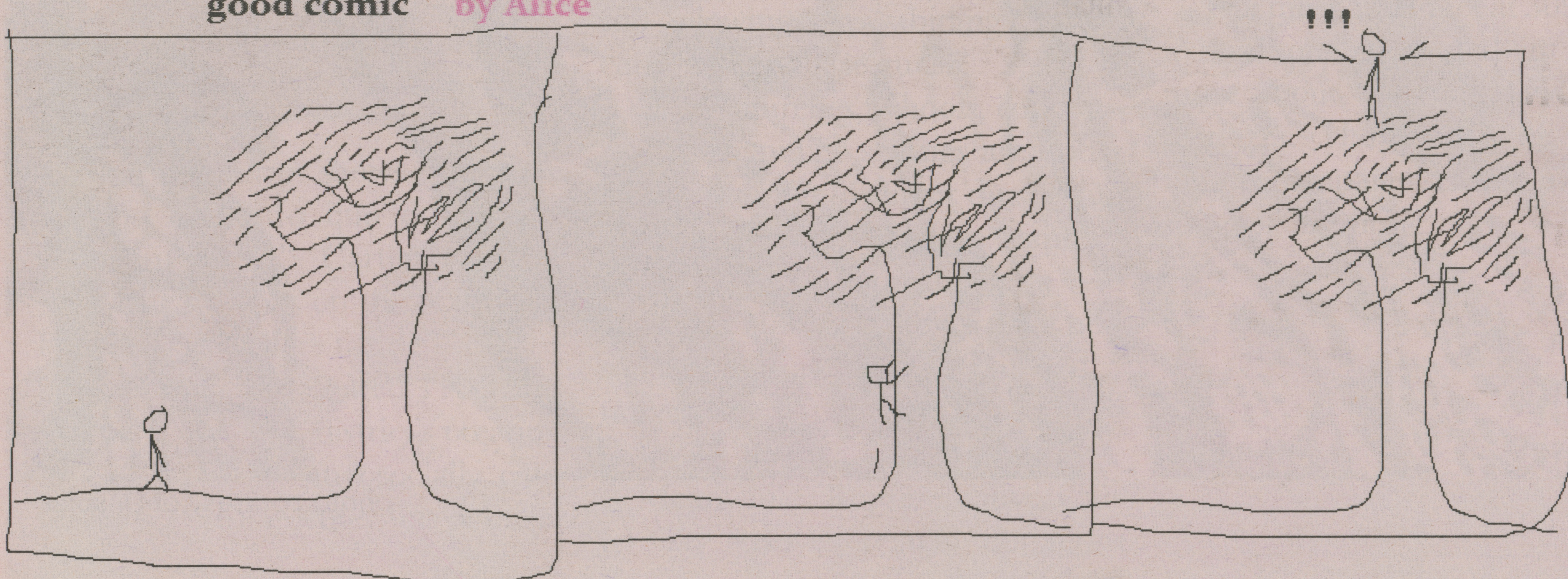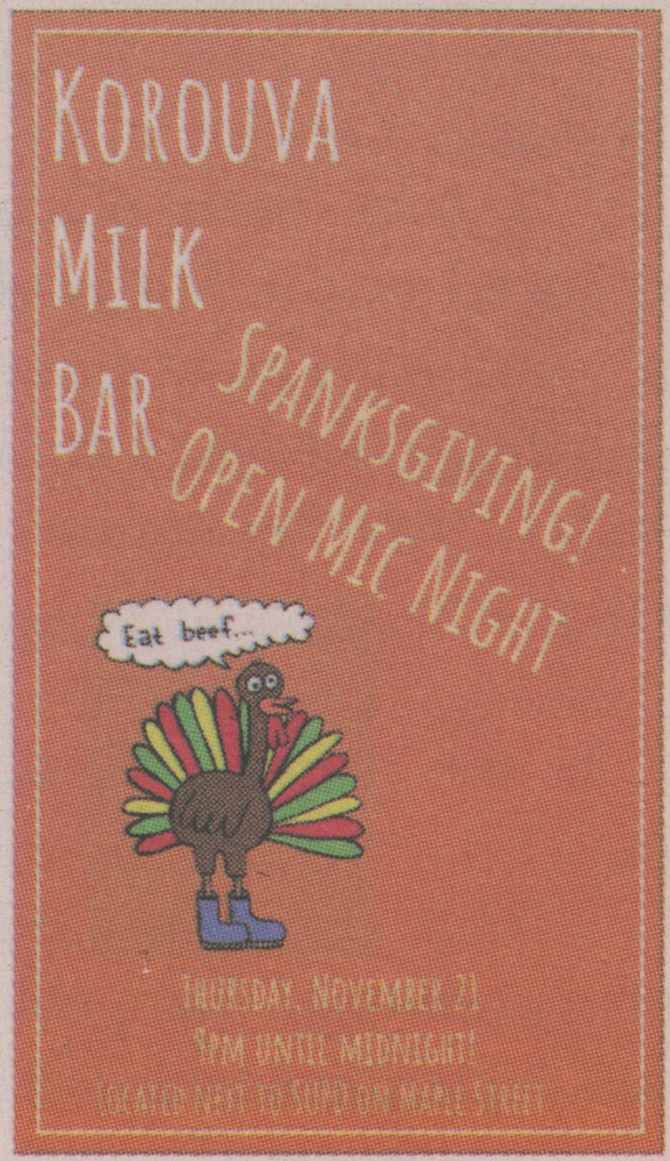
good comic by Alice